

plant, began its grassroots efforts in early 2002 and has since added over 720 farmer-investors. This plant will process 15 million bushels of corn each year, producing 40 million gallons of ethanol annually, creating more than 35 new jobs in Saline County. It will boost the value of locally grown corn and generate revenue for the farmers who have invested in the cooperative. In addition, the site preparation and construction of the plant will provide a boost to the area's economy. This plant is being built at a cost of \$60 million, and it is expected to be in operation by Spring 2005.

The technology for ethanol-blended fuel will only get better as the distribution network continues to grow. Ethanol is already marketed in a number of places at the same price as gasoline, and its increased use will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and help agricultural producers. There are currently 73 ethanol plants in the country, with the capacity to produce 2.9 billion gallons annually. The Malta Bend plant is one of 13 new plants under construction, which represent more than 400 million gallons per year of new ethanol production. I am confident the energy bill that emerges from the Congress will retain the Renewable Fuels Standard, which will double the production and use of ethanol over the next ten years.

I am proud of the hard work and commitment that the farmers of Mid-Missouri Energy have shown in getting this plant built. Their efforts are crucial to helping our agricultural industry in Missouri and providing jobs and growth for the Missouri economy. I am pleased to congratulate them, as well as the farmer-investors of Missouri's two operative ethanol plants, Northeast Missouri Grain, LLC and General Triangle Energy Cooperative, for all that they have done to support Missouri job creation and economic growth.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of September 30, 2003, the Secretary of the

Senate, on September 30, 2003, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3146. An act to extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program, and certain tax and trade programs, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of September 30, 2003, the enrolled bill was subsequently signed by (Mr. TALENT).

At 11:44 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 570. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 with respect to the qualifications of foreign schools.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1882. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando, Florida, as the "Arthur 'Pappy' Kennedy Post Office".

H.R. 2075. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 West Blue Heron Boulevard in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the "Judge Edward Rodgers Post Office Building".

H.R. 2086. An act to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

H.R. 3011. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 East Olive Avenue in Burbank, California, as the "Bob Hope Post Office building".

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 159. Concurrent resolution declaring Emporia, Kansas, to be the founding city of the Veterans Day holiday and recognizing the contributions of Alvin J. King and Representative Ed Rees to the enactment into law of the observance of Veterans Day.

H. Con. Res. 282. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of Johnny Cash.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3146) to extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program, and certain tax and trade programs, and for other purposes.".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1882. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando, Florida, as the "Arthur 'Pappy' Kennedy Post Office"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2075. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 West Blue Heron Boulevard in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the "Judge Edward Rodgers Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2086. An act to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3011. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 East Olive Avenue in Burbank, California, as the "Bob Hope Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 159. Concurrent resolution declaring Emporia, Kansas, to be the founding city of the Veterans Day holiday and recognizing the contributions of Alvin J. King and Representative Ed Rees to the enactment into law of the observance of Veterans Day; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 282. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of Johnny Cash.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4485. A communication from the Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Farm Bill Regulations—Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)—Allocation of Administrative Funds" (RIN0584-AD33) received on September 25, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4486. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Denomination of Customer Funds and Location of Depositories" (RIN3038-AB31) received on September 25, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4487. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of the New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. and the Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., Petitions for Treatment of Floor Brokers and Floor Traders as Eligible Commercial Entities Pursuant to Section 1a(1)(C) of the Commodity Exchange Act" received on September 25, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4488. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Performance Data and Disclosure for Commodity Trading Advisors" (RIN3038-AB39) received on September 25, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4489. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Futures and Foreign Options Transactions" received on September 25, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4490. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Futures and Options Transactions" received on September 25, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.